

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-10 SS-14 ACDA-19 RSR-01 NIC-01

T-03 /129 W

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R 141522 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7196

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2804

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR

SUBJ: SOVIET- FENCH RELATIONS

1. AT NATO QUADRIPARTITE MEETING MARCH 14, FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT REPORTED ON MINOR DEVELOPMENTS DURING COURTESY CALLS ON SOVIET OFFICIALS.

2. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF UNION SHITIKOV REMINDED AMBASSADOR THAT FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OWED SOVIETS A VISIT AND HE HOPED IT WOULD BE THIS YEAR. HE INDICATED FORMAL INVITATION WILL BE SENT AFTER NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS FORMED.

3. AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED FROM MEETING WITH RECENTLY PROMOTED DEPUTY FONMIN ZEMSKOV (FORMERLY MFA SECRETARY GENERAL) THAT PROMOTION WAS MORE OF FORM THAN SUBSTANCE. HE RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT ZEMSKOV STILL DEALS WITH ARCHIVES, DIPLOMATIC HISTORY, ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS OF MINISTRY (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUT NOT SUBSTANCE ASPECTS OF BOTH PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM AND HELSINKI CSCE TALKS.

4. ZEMSKOV WAS EXTREMELY CRYPTIC, IN DISCUSSING SUBSTANCE OF PARIS TALKS WHICH HE ATTENDED. HE MERELY SAID SOVIET SIDE WAS VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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SATISFIED, THAT ONE MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE DESIRE OF ALL PARTIES TO AVOID INCIDENTS, AND THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED IN PARIS THAT AID WOULD BE ONLY ON A BILATERAL BASIS. VIMONT REPORTED THAT QUAI D'ORSAY'S ARNAUD HAD VISITED MOSCOW TWO DAYS BEFORE VIETNAM CONFERENCE OPENED, AND ONE DAY AFTER N. VIETNAMESE DELEGATION HAD STOPPED IN MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO PARIS. HE HAD ALSO FOUND SOVIETS SIMPLY MOUTHING THE DRV POSITION ON ALL POINTS.

4. ON CSCE, ZEMSKOV REFERRED TO GROMYKO- SCHUMAN MEETING DURING PARIS CONFERENCE AND COMMENTED: (A) HOW DIFFICULT IT HAS PROVED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF PRINCIPLES, NOTABLY THAT OF NON- VIOLABILITY OF FRONTIERS, AND (B) FACT THAT CONFERENCE IS MOVING VERY SLOWLY. LATTER POINT PROMPTED VIMONT TO ASK WHETHER SOVIETS HAD THOUGHT THROUGH SCHEDULE OF NEXT THREE STAGES OF CONFERENCE IN LIGHT OF SUMMER VACATIONS. ZEMSKOV SAID MFA COULD NOT SAY ANYTHING AT THIS TIME CONCERNING TIMING OF NEXT PHASES. (COMMENT: FRG AMBASSADOR WAS INCLINED TO READ ZEMSKOV STATEMENT AS INDICATING THAT SOVIETS ARE NO LONGER INSISTENT ON HOLDING FONMIN PHASE IN JUNE. WE SUSPECT HE IS READING TOO MUCH INTO ESSENTIALLY CAUTIOUS BUREAUCRATIC STATEMENT.) DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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